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STATE LEGISLATURE, MADRAS

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 21st March 1956.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI N. GOPALA MENON) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Compensation to landholders in Ramanathapuram district

* 3451 *Q.*—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount paid to the landholders in Ramanathapuram district by the Commissioner for Settlement of Estates this year up to October 1955; and

(*b*) why the amount disbursed in this district is higher than that disbursed in the other districts?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: (*a*) & (*b*) The amounts paid to the landholders in the district of Ramanathapuram from 1st January to 31st October 1955 are as follows:—

(1) Amount paid under section 55 of the Abolition Act, Rs. 20,612.

(2) Advance compensation, Rs. 18,475.

(3) Interim payments, Rs. 649.

The total amount paid to landholders in the Ramanathapuram district is higher than what was paid in some other districts, the reason being that there are more estates in the Ramanathapuram district than in those districts.

Thermal Station, Basin Bridge

* 3452 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a turbine was broken at the Thermal station at Basin Bridge, Madras, on 8th November 1955;

(*b*) if so, whether any investigation has been made by the Government to ascertain the cause of the incident; and

(*c*) whether there was any loss of life on account of it?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: (*a*) No turbine was broken, but a make-up tank burst.

(*b*) Yes, Sir.

(*c*) One workman died out of burns caused by the splashing of hot water from the tank.

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Sri S. RAMALINGAM : Were the dependants of the worker given any compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The matter is under consideration.

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : What was the result of the investigation? Was there any negligence traced leading to this accident?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : No, Sir. It was declared to be purely an accident.

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : What was the cost of the breakage, Sir?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Roughly about Rs. 5,000.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : If it has been declared an accident, is it an act of God or act of man?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Accidents always mean a thing for which nobody is responsible. God also does not play any part there. (Laughter.)

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Was this an accident which had an antecedent history of human neglect?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : No, it was not so.

Huts for Harijans

* 3453 *Q.*—Sri K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endiwments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of huts that were constructed by Harijans near Independence Park, Tank Road, Nungambakkam, east of Corporation school, in the month of October 1955;

(*b*) the number of huts that were removed by the police;

(*c*) whether hutting materials such as leaves, bamboos were handed over to the respective hut owners;

(*d*) the owner of the land on which the huts were constructed and the reasons for the immediate eviction of the Harijans;

(*e*) whether these Harijans were provided with alternative sites; and

(*f*) the authority which has passed the eviction orders and the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Fifty, Sir.

(*b*) All the huts were removed by the Corporation with the help of the police.

(*c*) The hutting materials have not been handed over to the respective owners. They will be realeased soon after identification.

(*d*) It is a Government road-side land intended to be laid out as a park. The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras has reported